

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MC-02

AID-05 IO-10 ACDA-10 BIB-01 OMB-01 /094 W

----- 045137

R 311121Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2140

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

13TH ADVON UDORN

USSAG NKP

CINCPAC HONOLULU

UNCLAS BANGKOK 5313

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, CB

SUBJ: KHUKRIT ON MILITARY SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA

REF: FBIS BKK 310504Z MAR 75

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT COMMENTED MARCH 31 ON PRESS REPORTS OF TRUCK CONVOYS CARRYING U.S. ARMS TO CAMBODIA THROUGH THAILAND. KHUKRIT SAID HE HAS REASSERTED HIS ORDER TO BAN THESE SHIPMENTS, BUT HIS REACTION IS MILDER THAN WHAT "THE NATION" (REF) ATTRIBUTES TO HIM. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIME MINISTER KHUKRIT PRAMOT HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 31. FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON THE TRANSPORTATION OF U.S. WEAPONS TO CAMBODIA THROUGH THAILAND.

REPORTER: I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU WHETHER YOU HAVE GIVEN ORDERS

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TO BAN TRANSPORTATION OF AMERICAN WEAPONS THROUGH THAILAND.

KHUKRIT: I HAVE ASKED THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GEN. PRAMAN, WHO IS DEFENSE MINISTER ALSO, WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE BORDER AND HE HAS NOT SEEN ANY INCIDENT SUCH AS REPORTED BY THE PRESS AND ON WHICH PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN BY THE PRESS. I HAVE REASSERTED MY ORDER. IN ANY CASE THE SITUATION HAS COMPLETELY CHANGED ALREADY. IF YOU WISH TO HEAR BIG NEWS, I WILL TELL YOU. TODAY LON NOL WILL COME BY PLANE AND LAND IN UTAPAO.

.....

REPORTER: (TURNING TO THE PROBLEM OF TRANSPORTATION OF WEAPONS) DOES THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL POSSESS FULL POWER AND AUTHORITY?

KHUKRIT: WE HAVE REASSERTED THE ORDER ISSUED. IF THE SHIPMENTS WILL NOT STOP, WE WILL HAVE TO CALL A MEETING TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION TO TAKE.

REPORTER: DO YOU KNOW FACTS REGARDING ANY AGREEMENT AND CONDITIONS THAT MIGHT EXIST?

KHUKRIT: I DON'T KNOW. THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DID NOT MENTION THE SUBJECT AT ALL WHEN THE MEETING WAS HELD AND THE PRINCIPLE WAS ENTRUSTED TO IT. NOBODY SAID ANYTHING AT THAT MEETING SO THAT MEANS THAT THE DECISION REACHED CAN BE CARRIED OUT.

2. REFERENCE IS A FRONT PAGE STORY IN "THE NATION" OF MARCH 31 WHICH REPORTED THAT KHUKRIT WAS FURIOUS UPON LEARNING FROM LOCAL NEWSPAPERS THAT ARMS CONVOYS TO CAMBODIA HAD NOT BEEN STOPPED AS HE THOUGHT. ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT, KHUKRIT PROMISED TO PUT A QUICK END TO THE ARMS CONVOYS. KHUKRIT'S PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS DO NOT INDICATE THE INDIGNATION WHICH "THE NATION" ATTRIBUTED TO HIM THE PREVIOUS DAY.

MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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